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November 6, 2012

Mr. Daniel M. Ashe
Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

I am writing to express the full support of National Audubon Society for the ongoing efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and select surrogate species in each region as part of an agency-wide effort to implement Strategic Habitat Conservation.

I believe the effort to develop agency-wide species-based conservation targets is highly strategic and poised to drive unprecedented collaboration toward meaningful landscape-level conservation goals.

Audubon worked with partners to conserve millions of acres of western habitat for the Greater Sage Grouse, which demonstrated the power of species-based approaches to driving landscape-level conservation outcomes. It is highly encouraging that the Service is considering this successful model and working to develop cutting-edge conservation strategies that have the potential for transformational impacts on the ground.

Thank you for the longstanding conservation leadership of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and thank you for your thoughtful work, in close partnership, to open a new chapter in our national efforts to achieve strategic, landscape-level conservation outcomes.

Sincerely,

Mike Daulton
Vice President, Government Relations